

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A device for applying a substance onto keratinous fibers, eyelashes or eyebrows, the ~~applicator device~~ comprising:

a rod having an end portion having a longitudinal axis ~~and an end~~;

a brush fixed to said end portion of said rod, said brush including:

a twisted-wire core fixed to said end portion of said rod, said core having a bristle-carrying portion and a remote end;

a plurality of bristles extending from said bristle-carrying portion of said twisted-wire core, said twisted-wire core being ~~oriented~~ bent such that substantially all points of said bristle-carrying portion forms an angle greater than ~~about~~  $0^{\circ}$  and less than about  $20^{\circ}$  relative to said longitudinal axis of said end portion of said rod; and

a receptacle adapted to receive said rod and said brush in an assembled condition, said receptacle having an inner wall, said rod and said brush being spaced from said inner wall in said assembled condition.

2. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said bristles have free ends which define an envelope surface, said envelope surface having a cross-section, said cross-section being non-circular at ~~at~~ least one point along said bristle-carrying portion.

3. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said bristle-carrying portion is substantially rectilinear.

4. (currently amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein said bristle-carrying portion includes a middle and a distal end portion extending from said middle to a free end of said bristle-carrying portion, said longitudinal axis of said end portion of said rod intersecting said envelope surface of said distal end portion.

5. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said bristle-carrying portion forms an angle greater than ~~about~~—0° and less than about 15° relative to said longitudinal axis of said end portion of said rod.

6. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said bristle-carrying portion forms an angle greater than ~~about~~—0° and less than about 10° relative to said longitudinal axis of said end portion of said rod.

7. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said bristle-carrying portion forms an angle of between about 0.2° and about 15° relative to said longitudinal axis of said end portion of said rod.

8. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said bristle-carrying portion forms an angle of between about 1° and about 10° relative to said longitudinal axis of said end portion of said rod.

9. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said bristle-carrying portion forms an angle of between 5° and about 10° relative to said longitudinal axis of said end portion of said rod.

10. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said remote end of said core is situated at a distance from said longitudinal axis of said end portion of said rod of less than about 7.5 mm.

11. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said remote end of said core is situated at a distance from said longitudinal axis of said end portion of said rod of less than about 4.5 mm.

12. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said brush includes at least one longitudinal ridge.

13. (currently amended) The device according to claim ~~9~~12, wherein said brush includes between two and eight of said ridges.

14. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said brush includes at least one planar or concave face.

15. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein a cross-section of said brush includes at least one convex surface having a radius of curvature greater than a length of a longest bristle extending from said core in said bristle-carrying portion.

16. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said core includes at least two twisted-together strands.

17. (previously presented) The device according to claim 16, wherein said at least two strands are twisted together with a left-hand pitch.

18. (previously presented) The device according to claim 16, wherein said at least two strands are twisted together with a right-hand pitch.

19. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein said cross-section of said envelope surface is constant over a majority of said bristle-carrying portion of said core.

20. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein said cross-section in at least a portion of said envelope surface differs from said cross-section in a remainder of said envelope surface.

21. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein said cross-section in at least a portion of said envelope surface differs in size from said cross-section in a remainder of said envelope surface.

22. (currently amended) The device according to claim 2, wherein said cross-section of said envelope surface at at least one point along said core has a general shape selected from the group consisting of polygonal, triangular, square, pentagonal, hexagonal, oblong, oval, lenticular, star-shaped, star-shaped with three to six branches and keyhole-shaped.

23. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein said core defines the center of symmetry for at least one cross-section of said envelope surface.

24. (previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein said core is off-center from said envelope surface at at least one point along said bristle carrying portion.

25. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said brush includes at least two sets of bristles of different diameters.

26. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said bristles are made of a resilient material.

27. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein said bristles include a compound making it easier to slide over keratinous fibers.

28. (previously presented) The device according to claim 27, wherein said compound is a particulate compound.

29. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further including a handle, wherein said rod is connected to said handle.

30. (previously presented) The device according to claim 29, wherein said receptacle has an open end, and said handle is arranged to close said open end of said receptacle in a sealed manner in said assembled condition.

31. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said twisted core of said bristle-carrying portion lies entirely on one side of a plane containing said longitudinal axis of said end portion of said rod.

32. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said bristle-carrying portion has a free end, said free end being further from said longitudinal axis of said end portion of said rod than any other portion of said bristle-carrying portion.

33. (cancelled)

34. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a wiper disposed in said receptacle such that said wiper wipes said brush as said brush is removed from said receptacle.

35. (new) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a wiper member in said receptacle, said wiper member having an orifice of circular cross-section.